

ALSCW



[Twenty-ninth Annual Conference | Conference Program](#)

Thursday, October 22– Sunday, October 25, 2026

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Conference of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers

Conference Committee:

David Yezzi, Johns Hopkins University

Rebecca Rainof, University of California, Berkeley

Ernest Suarez, Catholic University of America

Kenneth Warren, University of Chicago

Special thanks to:

Emily Grace, Catholic University of America

Jeffrey Peters, Catholic University of America

Thursday, October 22

Welcome to Johns Hopkins University!

[All events held in Scott Bates Commons Banquet Hall : 3301 North Charles Street](#)

4:30-6:30 PM: Registration, cash bar, and hors-d' oeuvres

6:30 PM: Keynote Address

Kenneth Warren, University of Chicago, “ And oh, oh, oh, those

multimillionaires!' : Literature and the Problem of the Super Wealthy"

8:15: Poetry Reading

David Yezzi, ALSCW President, presiding

Friday, October 23

7:45 AM

Glass Pavilion: Registration with Tea, Coffee, and Bagels

8:15 AM-10:15 AM SEMINAR SESSION I

Seminar 1, Milton (Gilman 17)

Moderator: Tobias Gregory, Professor of English, Catholic University

- 1) Sharon Achinstein, Johns Hopkins University, "Two opinions doe not well on the same Boulster': Milton, Divorce, and Civil War"
- 2) Lars Engle, University of Tulsa, "Eve's Moral Luck"
- 3) Samuel Fallon, SUNY Geneseo, "Adam in Abstract"
- 4) Raphael Magarik, University of Illinois Chicago, "Reading *Samson* after Gaza"
- 5) Jeffrey Miller, Montclair State University, "'A Naturall League of Consequence': The Dilemma of Protestant Typology in Milton's 'Time'"
- 6) Eric Palfreyman, Independent Scholar, "A Modern Look at John Milton's 'Areopagitica' and John Stuart Mill's 'On Liberty': An Analysis in Four Dystopian Novels"
- 7) Esther Yu, Stanford University, "Dialogue, Institutions, and the New Program Era: On Hobbes and Milton"

Seminar 2, Poetry and Prayer (Gilman 55)

Moderator: David Caplan, Daisy Deane Frensley Chair in English Literature, Southern Methodist University

- 1) Will Brewbaker, Duke University, "The Reformation of the Prayer: John Berryman's 'Addresses' to God"
- 2) Marsaura Shukla, St. Johns College, "Addressing an Eclipse as Father: Emily Dickinson's Prayer Problem"
- 3) Samantha Kelting, St. Ambrose University, "Reading with the Ears: Sound, Rhythm, and Spirituality in Gerard Manley Hopkins"
- 4) David Caplan, Southern Methodist University, "How Prayer Works"
- 5) Karen D' Anselmi, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School, "'Is the Shipwrack Then a Harvest?': Poetry and Prayer in Gerard Manley Hopkins's Poems on Death"
- 6) Alexander Colter, The Well School, "Taught by the Spirit"
- 7) Taylor Light, Southern Methodist University, "The Project of Prayer in Leila Chatti's Deluge"
- 8) Abbey Corcoran, Ohio State University, "Social Death, Metaphor and 'The Black Christ'"

Seminar 3, Outside English: Poetry and Translation (Gilman 75)

Moderator: Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody, translator and doctoral candidate, Indiana University

- 1) Marco Antolín, Millersville University: “Ekphrastic Poems on Picasso's *Guernica* as a Literary Tool in Non-Translation”
- 2) Megan Scott, Catholic University of America: “Reading and Translating with ‘sound Sense’ from ‘sirens’ to *Finnegans Wake*”
- 3) Ryan Hintzman, Indiana University Bloomington: “Texture, Tension, Translation”
- 4) Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody, Indiana University Bloomington: “The Measures of Translation”

Seminar 4, Poetry and Philosophy I (Gilman 119)

Moderator: Elijah Perseus Blumov, Host/Creator of *Versecraft*

- 1) Andrew Gross, University of Göttingen, “Verse Essays On Rhyme: Shapiro and Ruby”
- 2) Chase Keller, Independent Scholar, “On the Decline of Philosophical Poetry”
- 3) David Lehner, Independent Scholar, “On Lying and Literary Language”
- 4) Riley McGuire, University of Notre Dame, “How Shall I Say This? On The Vexed Question of Philosophical Vocabulary to Describe Poetic Thought”

Seminar 5, Romanticism's Aftermath I (Gilman 219)

Moderators: Paul Franz, Editor-in-Chief, *Literary Imagination*; David Mikics, Professor of English, New College of Florida

- 1) David AP Womble, University of Houston, “Romanticism’s Dark Mirror: Caste, Ecology, and the Claims of Materialism”
- 2) Carolina Fautsch, Johns Hopkins University, “Jean Toomer’s ‘Kabnis,’ the South, and the Romantic Eschaton”
- 3) Jane Satterfield, Loyola University-Maryland, “Following their Footpaths: Ecopoetry and the Romantic Legacy”
- 4) Matthew Martello, University of Virginia, “Simic's Mythmaking”
- 5) Christopher Childers, Harvard-Westlake School, “What is Organic Form?”
- 6) Carla Galdo, Independent Scholar, “The Early Poetry of Karol Wojtyła: An Echo and Expansion of Polish Romanticism”
- 7) Peter Cortland, Quinnipiac University, “Three Journeys”
- 8) Aaron Baker, Loyola University-Chicago, “The Last Romantic: On the Death of Hart Crane”
- 9) Orrin Wang, University of Maryland, “Worlds’ Ends: Fantasy and the Death Drive from Keats to Jemisin”
- 10) Jane Forsyth, Catholic University, “Denise Levertov, Romanticism, and the Moral Imagination”

Seminar 6, The Six Most Beautiful Minutes in the History of Cinema (Gilman 377)

Moderators: Natalia Pérez, Associate Professor, University of Southern California; Sonia Velázquez, Associate Professor, Indiana University

- 1) Martha Hollander, Professor emerita Hofstra University, “Herzog's *Nosferatu*: Horror, Subversion, Beauty”
- 2) Mary Maxwell, Poet and Independent scholar: “Nights of the Hunter: Charles Laughton’s River Sequence from Davis Grubb's River Book”
- 3) Erin O' Luanaigh, University of Utah: “From Puppet to Actress: Breaking the Fourth Wall in

Nights of Cabiria"

4) Rebecca Rainof, University of California at Berkeley: "The Shrinking Lover"

5) Hope Rogers, Brenau University: "Waves of Emotion: Symbolism, Interiority, and the Pathetic Fallacy in *Frozen II*"

10:45 AM: Welcome Address (Glass Pavilion)

Speaker: David Yezzi, President, ALSCW

11 AM–1 PM: PLENARY PANEL I, Glass Pavillion

Tom Stoppard

Moderators: Mary Jo Salter, Johns Hopkins University emerita, and Hannibal Hamlin, The Ohio State University

1) Christopher Childers, "The Invention of Scholarship: Tom Stoppard and the Classics"

2) Hannibal Hamlin, "Stoppard in Love"

3) Mary Jo Salter, "'Almost Everything You Thought You Knew Is Wrong': Tom Stoppard and the Pursuit of Knowledge"

1 PM, Break (Lunch on your own)

2:15 PM-4:15 PM SEMINAR SESSION II

Seminar 7, Ralph Ellison, Robert Penn Warren, and Richard Wright: American Literature and Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century (Gilman 17)

Moderators: John Burt, Paul E. Prosswimmer Professor of American Literature *emeritus*, Brandeis University; Ernest Suarez, David M. O'Connell Professor of English, Catholic University of America

1) Renee Stack, Catholic University, "Laughing Through the Tears: The Blue Note in *Invisible Man*"

2) Matthew Zipf, University of Chicago, "Ellison's Protégé: James Alan McPherson and the American Constitution"

3) Wes Rothman, Howard University, "Writing and Action in the Late 1960s: Baldwin, Brooks, Ellison, and Warren"

4) Evan Hulick, Georgia Southern University, "Humanity Unfettered: Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Wright's *Native Son*, and Warren's *Flood*"

5) Chris Suarez, Independent Scholar, "Self-Interrogation and Democracy: Warren's Influence on Trethewey's *Native Guard*"

6) Dennis Looney, University of Pittsburgh *emeritus*, "Reading and Rewriting Dante in Robert Penn Warren"

Seminar 8, Poets as Critic, Critics as Poets I (Gilman 55)

Moderators: David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English, Yale University; Lee Oser, Professor

of English, The College of the Holy Cross

- 1) James Berger, Yale University, “Empson's Words/Olson's Field: Forces of Uncontiguous Poetics”
- 2) Nicholas Bloechl, Boston University, “Edgar Allan Poe's ‘Literary *Histrion*’ and the Theater of Criticism”
- 3) Emma Eigen, Harvard University, “Homer's Critical Art”
- 4) K. L. Evans, Independent Scholar, “The Function of the Poet-Critic—After Arnold, After Melville”
- 5) Paul Franz, The Royal Military College of Canada, “‘A More Impersonal Voice Still’: T. S. Eliot's Three Voices, Revisited”
- 6) Maggie Greaves, Skidmore College, “The Poetry Handbook as Critical Form”
- 7) Veronica Hart, The Catholic University of America, “Legal Analysis of the Poet-Critic”
- 8) Emily Leithauser, Morehouse College, “Embodied Criticism in Lyric: Contemporary Poets and the *Ars Poetica* Tradition”

Seminar 9, Teaching Literature in the Age of AI I (Gilman 75)

Moderator: Taryn Okuma, Director of the University Honors Program and Clinical Professor of English, Catholic University

- 1) Foster K. Bella, The United States Military Academy: “(A)merican (I)ntelligence: AI's Symmetrical Impact on the College Writer and Civic Participant”
- 2) Andrew Calis, Archbishop Spalding High School: “The Inefficiency of Human Flourishing”
- 3) Marissa Cina, The United States Military Academy: “The Work of Writing: Developing Creative Confidence in the Age of AI”
- 4) Tim DeJong, Baylor University: “Retaining the Human: Strategies for Teaching in the Humanities in the Age of AI”
- 5) Spencer Lynch, The United States Military Academy: “Beyond the Binary: Systems Thinking as Pedagogical Innovations”
- 6) James Michael McCollister, Dallas County Community College, Farmers Branch: “What Is the Point of Education Now? Recovering Purpose and Judgment in the Age of AI”
- 7) Luke Mitchell, Baylor University: “Agency, Community, and Having a Voice: Three Thoughts for the Literature Classroom Student Inclined to Outsource to A.I.”

Seminar 10, Future Reading, Future Writing: What's changed and What's Ahead? (Gilman 132)

Moderator: Sarah Harrison Smith, Senior Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, former editor at the *New York Times Book Review*, and former Editorial Director for Books and Kindle at Amazon

- 1) Lin Atnip, University of Chicago, “The Language of Screens: Mediated Communication in The Tale of Genji”
- 2) Christa M. Forster, the Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas, “What If There's No Bridge? Fathoming Literacy in the Age of AI”
- 3) Ernest Hilbert, Bauman Rare Books, “Listening to the Future: Book Culture and Streaming”
- 4) Paul Ragonese, Cairn University, “I Sing The Body . . .”
- 5) Shweta Rao Garg, Johns Hopkins University, “Future of Reading, Reading the Future: Perspectives from India”
- 6) Sarah Harrison Smith, Johns Hopkins University, “Reading Together Again: Using

Technology to Revive Literary Communities”

7) Fiona Spring, University of Saint Thomas-Houston, “Holding the Body of the Book”

8) Diana Wolfe, San Jacinto College–Central Campus, “‘The Last Story’: Frictionless Reading and the Future of Human Creativity”

8) Ernest Hilbert, Bauman Rare Books, “Listening to the Future: Book Culture and Streaming Technology”

Seminar 11, Experimental Forms in Poetry (Gilman 219)

Moderator: Lauren Russell, Associate Professor, The Writing Seminars, Johns Hopkins University

1) Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, University of Maryland: “How I Wrote Certain of My Books”

2) Jane Lewty, Johns Hopkins University and Maryland Institute College of Art: “Action, Rapture, Process-- Reality?: Afterword on the Composition of *Vespers*”

3) Melissa Parrish, Smith College: “Emergency Poetics Amid the Rise of the American National Security State”

4) Soham Patel, Virginia Tech: “Ensemble Against Erasure: Poetic Experiment and Survival in *The Daughter Industry*”

5) John Poch, Grace College: “Prose Poem Form and Anti-Form: An Apophatic/Poetic Approach”

6) Anne Rong, University of Maryland: “‘Let me LOOK at you’: Drone Vision and Asian American Inscrutability in Solmaz Sharif’s *Look*”

7) Nathan Spoon, Independent poet: “Neurodivergent Poets and Normcore Metamodern Experimentation”

Seminar 12, Literary Baltimore: Poe & Company (Gilman 377)

Moderator: Ryan Wilson, Associate Professor, University of St. Thomas-Houston

1) Ned Balbo, Independent Scholar, “A Peculiar Power and Artistry: Poe’s influence on the poems of Tom Disch”

2) Jacob Bowers, Catholic University, “Interactions with the Divine Feminine in Poe’s Poetry”

3) Claudia Gary, Independent Scholar, “Winding through Poe’s ‘A Descent into the Maelstrom’”

4) Joshua Matthews, University of St. Thomas-Houston, “Poe & Conan Doyle”

5) Courtney Kim, University of St. Thomas-Houston, “Poe, Tennyson, Chandler: The Atmosphere of the Mystic”

6) Eric Palfreyman, Independent Scholar, “Elements of the Philosophical In Edgar Allan Poe’s *Ligeia*”

7) Aaron Schultz, University of St. Thomas-Houston, “Falling Inward: Prohibition and Transgression in Poe’s ‘The Imp of the Perverse’”

8) Jessica Sheaff, Independent Scholar, “Shock Value: The Insanity of FOX’s *The Following* vs. the Soulful Art of Edgar Allan Poe”

Dinner on Your Own

7:30 pm: Cash bar and reception, Glass Pavilion

8:30 PM: READING HOSTED BY LITERARY MATTERS (Glass Pavilion)

Presiding: Emily Grace, Editor-in-Chief, *Literary Matters*

Featuring: Mary Jo Salter, Joshua Weiner, Elijah Perseus Blumov, Forester McClatchey

Saturday, October 24

8 AM: Coffee and Tea Bar, **Ballroom Foyer**

9–11:00 AM: SEMINAR SESSION III

Seminar 13, Romanticism's Aftermath II (Gilman 17)

Moderators: Paul Franz, Editor-in-Chief, Literary Imagination; David Mikics, Professor of English, New College of Florida

- 1) K.L. Evans, Independent Scholar, and Ruby LaRocca, Williams College, “The Hell of the Sealed Monologue: Satan’s Aversion to Conversation in *Paradise Lost*”
- 2) John Park, New College of Florida, “Romantic Sublime in Werner Herzog’s *The Fire Within: A Requiem for Katia and Maurice Krafft* and William Wordsworth’s “There Was a Boy””
- 3) Laura Quinney, Brandeis University, “*Blade Runner* in its High Romanticism”
- 4) Mark Edmundson, University of Virginia, “What is a Romantic?”
- 5) Sharon Sabini, Catholic University, “Point of View In *The Age of Innocence*: Bridging the Gap Between Romanticism and Modernism”
- 6) Daniel Nutters, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, “Henry James and the Man of Imagination”
- 7) James Tussing, University of Notre Dame, “Tocqueville's Democratic Poetry”
- 8) Rebecca Findlay, The Hotchkiss School, “Reluctant Post-Romantics: The Underground Man as Midwife to Gen Z Self-Awareness”
- 9) Andrew Majeske, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, “Rousseau's Long Shadow: Reflections Upon Humanity’s Globalizing Efforts in (science fictional) Text and Context”

Seminar 14, Song and Sense: “When Walls of the Cities Shake” (Gilman 55)

Moderators: Mike Mattison, Tedeschi Trucks Band; Ernest Suarez, David M. O'Connell Professor of English, Catholic University

- 1) Diana Senechal, Varga Katalin Gimnázium, ““500 Miles’ and a National Ethos of Yearning”
- 2) Hannibal Hamlin, The Ohio State University, ““Strange Fruit’ and the Fruit It’s Borne”
- 3) Abriana Jetté, Kean University, “The Pedagogy of the Streets: Biggie's ‘The Ten Crack Commandments’ as Cultural Artifact”
- 4) Wesley Lord, University of Maryland, “MAGA vs the Billboard Hot 100: Music, National Identity, and Power”
- 5) Emily McBryan Fourie, Catholic University, ““I Want Somebody to Say Amen!”: Reading Faulkner Through Morrison’s Musical Aesthetics”
- 6) Kevin O' Connor, Phillips Academy Andover Faculty Emeritus, “A voice fighting out: Springsteen’s Protest Songs”
- 7) Lily Corwin, Virginia Tech, “Carrying the Flame: Current Protest Music and the Anxiety of Influence”

Seminar 15, Curation, Conversation, Community: Literature Beyond the Book (Gilman 75)

Moderator: Matthew Buckley Smith, *SLEERICKETS*

- 1) Elijah Perseus Blumov, *Versecraft*: “Classics Among Us: Uncovering the Modern Metrical Canon”
- 2) Emily Grace, *Literary Matters*: “Within/Without Community: *Literary Matters*, the University, and Creating Anew”
- 3) Matthew Buckley Smith, *SLEERICKETS*: “Never Get Respectable: How to Run a Shambolic Poetry Podcast”
- 4) David Starkey, Santa Barbara City College: “Inside/Outside/Inside: Poet as Editor, Editor as Poet”
- 5) Andrew Visscher, The United States Military Academy, “Boundary Lines: War, Peace, and Identity in Henry Colburn’s *United Service Journal*”

Seminar 16, Shakespeare and the Poem Unlimited (Gilman 132)

Moderator: David Yezzi, Professor, The Writing Seminars, Johns Hopkins University

- 1) Scott F. Crider, University of Dallas, “Bottom and Theseus and the Question of Poetry in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.”
- 2) Rebecca Findlay, The Hotchkiss School, “Letters, Puns, Litotes, Prose: The Written Word as Saving Force in *Hamlet*”
- 3) Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody, Indiana University-Bloomington, “Shakespeare's Songs and the Ends of Verse”
- 4) Alexis Sears, Poet and Educator, “The Soul of Wit: Structural Architecture of the Shakespearean Volta”
- 5) David Yezzi, Johns Hopkins University, “‘My grave is like to be my marriage bed’: Capulets, Montagues & the Verona Death Cult”

Seminar 17, “Whose Words These Are I Think I Know” (Gilman 219)

Moderator: Robert Bernard Hass, Professor of English, Pennsylvania Western University, Executive Director of the Robert Frost Society

- 1) Robert Bernard Hass, Pennsylvania Western University, “Robert Frost’s Quantum Consciousness”
- 2) Jonathan Barron, University of Maine, “There Are Only Middles: Robert Frost's Poetry of the Middle”
- 3) Natalie Gerber, SUNY Fredonia, “Staging Frost: Drama, Intonation, and the Dramatic Lyric”
- 4) Matthew Spring, University of Dallas, “‘Directive’ Prescriptions: Simple Medicinal Herbs in Frost's Most Confounding Poem”
- 5) Elijah Walters, United States Military Academy at West Point, “A Performance History of ‘Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening’”

11:15 AM-1:15 PM: PLENARY PANEL II (Glass Pavilion)

August Wilson: Staging the Cycle, Expanding the Legacy

Moderator: Lesley Malin, Producing Executive Director, Chesapeake Shakespeare

Company and Producer, Baltimore August Wilson Celebration

- 1) Sandra G. Shannon, President Emerita of the August Wilson Society, Howard University
- 2) Khalid Y. Long, President of the August Wilson Society, Howard University
- 3) Lesley Malin, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company

1:15-2:30 PM, Break (Lunch on your own)

2:30 PM-4:30 PM: Seminar Session IV

Seminar 18, Poetry and Philosophy (Gilman 119)

Moderator: Elijah Perseus Blumov, *Versecraft*

- 1) Elijah Perseus Blumov, *Versecraft*, “The Music of Thought: Poetry as Philosophical Method”
- 2) Andrew Kuiper, *Naucratic Expeditions*, “Prophecy and Divine Thunder: The Poet's Vocation in Holderlin, Heidegger, and Adorno”
- 3) Forester McClatchey, Poet and Independent Scholar, “The Philosophic Power of Poetic Imagery”
- 4) Gregorio Montejó, *Past Masters*, “Disclosure Through Concealment: Philosophical Poetics and Participatory Symbolism in the Platonic-Christian Tradition”

Seminar 19, American Literary Fragments and Other Short Forms (Gilman 17)

Moderator: Robert Levine, Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland-College Park

- 1) Thomas W. Howard, Bilkent University, “Transcendentalist ‘Waste-Books’ and Empirical Observation”
- 2) Aleksandra Hernandez and Daniel Jaques, University of Miami, “Nature in a Sentence: Aphorism and Insight in American Nature Writing”
- 3) Robert S. Levine, University of Maryland, “Hawthorne's Fragments”
- 4) Claudia Stokes, Trinity University, “Stowe's Parables”
- 5) Samuel Otter, University of California, Berkeley, “Entries and Excerpts in the Philadelphia African American Friendship Albums”
- 6) Gerard Holmes, University of Maryland, “Nineteenth-Century Unscripted Oratory and Its Transcribers' In-text Comments”
- 7) Emily Gowen, University of Notre Dame, “Frances Harper's Fragments”
- 8) Lisa Siraganian, Johns Hopkins University, “Romance, Western, Other? The Problem of Genre with F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Last Tycoon* Fragment”

Seminar 20, Poets as Critic, Critics as Poets II (Gilman 55)

Moderator: David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English, Yale University; Lee Oser, Professor of English, The College of the Holy Cross

- 1) Steven Monte, City University of New York, “Eminently Reasonable: Swinburne as Poet-Critic between Arnold and Eliot”
- 2) Lee Oser, College of the Holy Cross, “T. S. Eliot and ‘the Work of Art’”

- 3) Jeffrey Peters, Catholic University, "The Legacy of Keats's Cockney Criticism"
- 4) Kevin Rulo, The Catholic University of America, "Heuristic Poetics: (Im)personality and the Criticism of T.S. Eliot"
- 5) Mark Scroggins, Florida International University emeritus, "The Poet-Critic in the Literary Field: The Case of Louis Zukofsky"
- 6) Daniel Tobin, Emerson College, "Poetry and the Rage: Jarrell and Stevens"
- 7) Meg Tyler, Boston University, "John Ashbery's Traditions"
- 8) Rosanna Warren, University of Chicago, "John Berryman: Fuel for the Fire"

Seminar 21, Teaching Literature in the Age of AI II (Gilman 75)

Moderators: Taryn Okuma, Director of the University Honors Program and Clinical Professor of English, Catholic University

- 1) M.I. Devine, State University of New York at Plattsburgh: "The Ordinary Prompts: AI, the Inventory Project, and the New Nonfiction Classroom"
- 2) E. Thomas Finan, Boston University: "Grounded in the Heart: Preserving the Human Within the Digital Vortex"
- 3) Sarah Harsh, National Louis University: "The Scholar's Scrapbook: Archive and Assemblage as an Antidote to AI in First Year Writing"
- 4) Sr. Maria Frassati Jakupcak and Christopher M. Petter, University of St. Thomas, Houston: "Friendship as Pedagogy: The Idea of the University?"
- 5) David Moretti, Central Catholic High School, Modesto, CA: "'Write It Like Me:' AI and Student Identity in the Classroom"
- 6) Taryn Okuma, The Catholic University of America: "Building Community through 'The Art of Letter Writing'"
- 7) Rebecca Vaccaro, Bishop Ireton High School: "Bodily Integrity: Transparency and Embodied Writing as a Response to AI"

Seminar 22, The Golden Mean: How Mid-Length Poems Sustain Lyric or Narrative Momentum (Gilman 132)

Moderator: Sunil Iyengar, Independent Scholar

- 1) Brian Brodeur, Indiana University East, "The Expansion of Expansive Poetry"
- 2) Mary R. Finnegan, Wiseblood Books, "Magpies and the Mid-Length Poem"
- 3) Paul Franz, Royal Military College of Canada, "Unawakened from the Dream of Life: Percy Shelley; the Mid-Length Poem; Essential Incompletion"
- 4) Rachel Hadas, Rutgers University, "One More Missing Piece: On James Merrill's Lost in Translation"
- 5) Sunil Iyengar, Independent Scholar, "Sticking the Landing: Penultimate Strophes in Mid-Length Lyrics"
- 6) Tamarah Rockwood, University of Birmingham, "The Engine of the Turn: Peripeteia and the Problem of the Mid-Length Poem"
- 7) John Talbot, Brigham Young University, "Samuel Johnson's Juvenals"
- 8) Michael Theune, Illinois Wesleyan University, "Emergencies: How Techniques from Cognitive Narratology Help Generate Fitting Surprise in Mid-length Poems from Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*"

Seminar 23, Irish Modernism (Gilman 219)

Moderator: Gregory Baker, Associate Professor, Catholic University

- 1) Harrison Glaze, Baylor University, “‘The Bell in the Air’: Rhyme, Song, and Nostalgia in Louis MacNeice”
- 2) Brian Richardson, University of Maryland, “Beckett’s Assault on and Return to Modernist Narrative Poetics”
- 3) Deborah Saitta-Ringger, Quincy College, “The Language of Paralysis in Joyce’s *Dubliners*: Towards an Aesthetic of Possibility”
- 4) Matthew Ryan, The Catholic University of America, “‘now time lay between’: James Joyce and the Spatial *Bildungsroman*”
- 5) Yifan Zhang, Concordia University-Wisconsin, “‘He Lived at a Little Distance from His Body’: The Body as Narrator in James Joyce’s ‘A Painful Case’”

Seminar 24, Literary Maximalism Now (Gilman 377)

Moderators: Justin Mitchell, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan; Ernest Suarez, David M. O’Connell Professor of English, Catholic University

- 1) Graham Glovka, Brandeis University, “A World in a Grain of Sand: Thomas Pynchon’s Romantic Maximalism”
- 2) Anjalee Nadarajan, York University-Toronto, “Reading *Gravity’s Rainbow* in 2026: The Modulation of Attention”
- 3) Kevin Farrell, Radford University, “‘Shall I Project A World?’: Joycean Nighttowns in Maximalist Fiction”
- 4) Katarzyna Bartoszyńska, Ithaca College, “‘To Build for Myself a Way to See and Understand’: Karen Tei Yamashita’s *Questions 27 & 28* and Anti-Encyclopedic Maximalism”
- 5) John Pistelli, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, “Esotericism in the Novel: Toni Morrison’s Gnostic Gospels”
- 6) Lee Konstantinou, University of Maryland, “The Market, Self-Promotion, and Alt Lit”
- 7) Jesse McCarthy, Harvard University, “Novel-maxxing or Making the Most of a Bad Situation in Joshua Cohen’s *Book of Numbers*”

6:45 PM: Reception (Drinks and Hor D’ Oeuvres)

7:30 PM BANQUET (Glass Pavillion)

8:30 PM REMARKS

David Yezzi, President, ALSCW
 Rebecca Rainof, Vice President ALSCW
 Ernest Suarez, Executive Director ALSCW

8:45: KEYNOTE READING

Introduction: David Yezzi, President, ALSCW

Reading: Eric Puchner, Johns Hopkins University

CLOSING: David Yezzi, President, ALSCW

Sunday, October 25

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

ALSCW Council Meeting (Hodson Hall 2023)

Coffee, tea, pastries, fruit

Conference Participants

Plenary Speakers

Kenneth W. Warren is Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of English at the University of Chicago. He has published several books, including *What Was African American Literature?* (2011) and most recently, with Adolph Reed, Jr., *Black Studies, Cultural Politics, and the Evasion of Inequality: The Farce this Time* (Routledge 2025). He is a Guggenheim Fellow and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2026 he received the Darwin T. Turner Award for excellence in African American Literature and Culture Society (AALCS).

Eric Puchner is the author of four books, including a new novel, *Dream State*, forthcoming from Doubleday in March 2025. His previous books include the novel *Model Home*, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and two collections of stories, *Last Day on Earth* and *Music Through the Floor*, a finalist for the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award. His fiction and personal essays have appeared in *GQ*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and *The Best American Short Stories* 2012 and 2017. He has received a California Book Award, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Among other places, he has taught at Stanford University, Claremont McKenna College, and San Francisco State University.

Plenary Panel I, Tom Stoppard

Christopher Childers is author of *The Penguin Book of Greek and Latin Lyric Verse*, a finalist for the London Hellenic Prize, and *Bitters*, winner of the 21st Anthony Hecht Prize from Waywiser Books. His work has appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. After a decade in Baltimore, where he obtained an MFA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, he now lives in Los Angeles with his wife Sanaz and teaches Latin.

Hannibal Hamlin is Professor of English at The Ohio State University. His work as author and editor includes *The Bible in Shakespeare*, *Psalm Culture and Early Modern English Literature*, and *The Psalms in English, 1530-1633* (MHRA New Tudor & Stuart Translations), as well as essays on Renaissance literature and culture, poetry and poetics, and allusion and intertextuality. He is currently writing a book on the reception history of the Bible's only pet, as it travels through paintings, poetry, plays, novels, theological and political debates, jokes, and popular culture for the past millennium. He is also a singer, specializing in early music, and he is past president of the ALSCW.

Mary Jo Salter is Professor Emerita in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Her new book of poems is *Cameo Appearance* (Knopf, 2026).

Plenary Panel II,

Sandra G. Shannon is Professor Emerita of African American Literature at Howard University, Founder and President Emerita of the August Wilson Society, and Dean Emerita of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. Widely recognized as an August Wilson scholar, she authored *The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson* and *August Wilson's Fences: A Reference Guide* and edited or co-edited volumes on Wilson and drama. Shannon has published extensively on African American literature and theatre. She served as a consultant for the documentary *August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand* and as a content specialist for *August Wilson: A Writer's Landscape*.

Khalid Y. Long is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts and Professor of Theatre Arts at Howard University. A cultural historian, dramaturg, and director, his scholarship examines African American and Black diasporic theatre and performance through Black feminist/womanist thought, queer studies, and performance studies. Long's books include *Contemporary Black Theatre and Performance: Acts of Rebellion, Activism, and Solidarity* (Methuen Drama) and *August Wilson in Context* (Cambridge University Press). He is President of the August Wilson Society.

Lesley Malin is the Producing Executive Director of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, the classical theatre company located in Downtown Baltimore. As a founder, she has served as its executive since 2003 and overseen its growth into one of the six largest theatres in Maryland. She has performed in thirty CSC productions (including *Lady Macbeth*, *Titania*, *Beatrice*, *Lady Bracknell*, *Queen Elizabeth I*) and previously in New York. She was, for 20 years, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of The Lark, the landmark new play development center in New York City, where she earlier was Managing Director. She served for five years on the Executive Committee of the international Shakespeare Theatre Association and organized its annual conference that CSC hosted in Baltimore in 2017. She is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, NYU's Arts Management program, Leadership Howard County, and LEADERShip Baltimore (2018). Lesley conceived of and is producer of The Baltimore August Wilson Celebration, an unprecedented effort by the Baltimore theatre community to present over four years each play of Wilson's powerful American Century Cycle, chronicling the Black experience in the 20th century.

Seminars

Seminar 1, Milton

Tobias Gregory is Ordinary Professor of English at the Catholic University of America. He is the author of *Milton's Strenuous Liberty* (Cambridge, 2025) and a contributor to the *London Review of Books*.

Sharon Achinstein teaches at Johns Hopkins, where she is Sir William Osler Professor of Renaissance Literature. Her edition and commentary on Milton's divorce tracts has just been published in *The Complete Works of John Milton*, vol. 5 (Oxford University Press, 2026).

Lars Engle is Chapman Professor of English at the University of Tulsa, where he has taught since 1988, serving at various points as Honors Program Director and Department Chair. He also teaches regularly at the Bread Loaf School of English. He's the author of *Shakespearean Pragmatism*, the co-author of *Studying Shakespeare's Contemporaries*, and an editor of *English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology* and of *Shakespeare and Montaigne*. He led a seminar on Shakespeare and Moral Luck at the

2023 ALSCW.

Samuel Fallon is an associate professor of English at SUNY Geneseo. His articles have appeared or are forthcoming in *ELH*, *MLQ*, *English Literary Renaissance*, *Milton Studies*, and *Modern Philology*, and his first book, *Paper Monsters: Persona and Literary Culture in Elizabethan England* was published by Penn Press in 2019. He is currently completing a book titled “One of a Kind: Character and Abstraction from Spenser to Milton.”

Raphael Magarik is associate professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago. He is the author of *Fictions of Goa* (Chicago, 2025) and a contributing writer at *Jewish Currents*.

Jeffrey Alan Miller is an Associate Professor of English at Montclair State University. A former Rhodes Scholar, he was named a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellow in 2019. He is currently completing several academic book projects, including two studies of early modern biblical typology and a study of early modern writing processes. He is also at work on a book-length edition and study of the King James Bible's earliest known draft, which he discovered, and the author of three children's books.

Eric Palfreyman holds a BA and MA in English from California State University, Los Angeles, an MA in Philosophy from San Jose State University, and a JD from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. He is currently working on a book on the philosophical and religious ideas of Ray Bradbury.

Esther Yu is assistant professor of English at Stanford University. Her first book, *Experiencing the Novel: The Genre of Tender Conscience*, will be out from the University of Chicago Press this December.

Seminar 2, Poetry and Prayer

David Caplan, the Daisy Deane Frenshley Chair in English Literature at Southern Methodist and the author of seven books of literary criticism and poetry. A contributing editor to *Pleiades* and the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and an Affiliated Researcher (Chercheur Affilié) with the Centre Interdisciplinaire de Poétique Appliquée, Caplan chaired the Executive Committee of the Modern Language Association's Creative Writing Forum and currently serves on the Executive Board of the International Network for the Study of Lyric. He served as founding director of Project Poëtica. His current project is *God Loves Poetry: Contemporary American Poetry and Religion* (under contract to Cambridge University Press).

Will Brewbaker is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Duke University. His poetry and criticism have appeared in such journals as *The Yale Review*, *Literary Imagination*, & *Image*.

Marsaura Shukla holds a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Chicago. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and teaches at St. John's College. She is currently working on a book about Emily Dickinson as a new, particularly modern kind of religious thinker.

Samantha Kelting is an undergraduate attending St. Ambrose University, where she studies English. Her academic interests include the poetry and biography of Gerard Manley Hopkins, poetic meter, and how readers engage with poetry. Her current research focuses on

Hopkins's use of metrical irregularity and sonic stress, particularly the way these qualities create embodied and spiritual experiences for a reader. Her conference paper examines these effects in Hopkins's "God's Grandeur," and considers how the poem's sound and rhythm shape the reader's experience with its spirituality.

Karen D' Anselmi teaches theology at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School in New York's Hudson Valley. She received a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and an M.A. in Dogmatic Theology from St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. She is an M.F.A. candidate in Creative Writing (Poetry) at the University of Saint Thomas in Houston. Her academic and creative interests include metaphysical poetry, the Hebrew Psalms, and, of course, Gerard Manley Hopkins. Her own poetry has been published in *The Road Not Taken*, *First Things*, *New Verse Review*, *The Windhover*, and elsewhere.

Alexander Colter is a writer and teacher living in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire. He holds a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he studied Biblical Hebrew Poetry, Ugaritic, and the intersections between the Hebrew Bible and English literature. He earned his BA from the University of Houston, majoring in English with a focus on creative writing and minoring in classical languages. He currently teaches middle school Humanities and Latin.

Taylor Light's poems have appeared in *Literary Matters*, *Ploughshares*, *North American Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and elsewhere. Holding an MFA in poetry from the University of Florida, she has received support from the Stanford Humanities Center and the London Arts-Based Research Centre. She has presented papers at conferences at Stanford University and the University of Cambridge. Currently, she is a PhD student at Southern Methodist University where she works for Project Poëtica. She's been nominated for Best New Poets 2026.

Abbey Corcoran is a Ph.D. candidate in The Ohio State University's Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and a recipient of both OSU's Graduate Enrichment Fellowship and University Fellowship. She holds a BA in English and Gender and Sexuality Studies from Davidson College, and a Master's in Literary and Cultural Studies from the University of Utah.

Seminar 3, Outside English (Poetry and Translation)

Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody is a literary translator, most recently of *The Idea of Perfection: The Poetry and Prose of Paul Valéry*. His essays have appeared in *MLN*, *Modern Philology*, *Essays in Criticism*, *Literary Imagination*, and other journals. He is currently completing a PhD in Comparative Literature at Indiana University. His latest book is *A Dire Shortage of Usable Meaning: Two Poems*.

Marco Antolín is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. His area of specialization is the influence of twentieth-century Spanish poetry on contemporary American verse. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Valladolid, Spain. He has published numerous articles articulating a framework for understanding transatlantic literary exchange between Spanish and American literature. He is currently working on a book about the impact of the Spanish Civil War on American contemporary poetry.

Megan Scott is an MA/PhD candidate in English at the Catholic University of America. She

graduated with distinction from the University of Dallas with a double major in Politics and English and received her MA in Catholic Studies from the University of St. Thomas, where she served as the assistant editor of *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*. Her research explores the disclosive possibilities of poetic speech through interrogating its nonsense and difficulty. Her current project examines the relationship between Victorian nonsense literature and the poetry of T.S. Eliot. This year, she will serve as the managing editor of *T.S. Eliot Studies Annual*.

Ryan Hintzman is Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Indiana University Bloomington, where he works primarily on Japanese verse practices before 1500 and comparative lyric.

Seminar 4, Poetry and Philosophy I

Elijah Perseus Blumov is host of the *Versecraft* podcast and substack, and Translations Editor at *Literary Matters*. He has been published in dozens of journals, and is the author of *The Necklace of Harmonia* (Lettre Sauvage, 2026) and *Against Oblivion* (Measure Press, 2026).

Andrew S. Gross is a professor of American literature at the University of Göttingen, vice president of the German Association of American Studies, and editor-in-chief of the *New American Studies Journal*. His book *The Pound Reaction: Liberalism and Lyricism in Midcentury American Literature*, won the Rob Kroes award from the European Association of American Studies. Gross co-authored (with Susanne Rohr) *Comedy, Avant-Garde, Scandal: Remembering the Holocaust after the End of History*, and he has edited special issues of *The Wallace Stevens Journal* as well as collections of essays on surveillance culture, cultures of American conservatism, populism, and narratives of infection. His translation of Bruno Frank's *Lying as a Principle of Governance* is forthcoming with Berghahn Books.

Chase Keller is a poet and writer based in New Jersey, where he also serves as an emergency medical technician. He is currently at work on his first collection of poems.

David Lehner is the author of six novels as well as scholarly articles on philosophy and cognitive approaches to literary theory. He earned his PhD in English Literature from the City University of New York. His latest novel *The Last Ride of Boone Clarke* appeared October, 2024.

Riley McGuire is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Notre Dame. His research interests are in medieval literature and philosophy and the philosophy of poetry. His dissertation examines depictions of the heart as a cognitive and ethical organ in later medieval poetry, medicine, philosophy, and spirituality. A major secondary research interest of Riley's is the unique kind of thought and knowledge that poetry (and literature more generally) is capable of, and the project of developing a suitable critical, theoretical, or philosophical framework to describe it.

Seminar 5, Romanticism's Aftermath I

Paul Franz is the editor of *Literary Imagination*. He teaches in the Department of English, Culture, and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada and has published scholarly articles and book chapters on topics including Rachel Cusk and D. H. Lawrence, T. S. Eliot and lyric theory, and A. F. Moritz and Jacques Ellul. His poetry, criticism, and short fiction appear in the *New York Review of Books*, *London Review of Books*, and *Heavy Traffic*, among others.

David Mikics is Professor of English at New College of Florida. He is the author of a number of books, including *Stanley Kubrick* (Yale Jewish Lives), *Bellow's People* (W.W. Norton) and *Slow Reading in a Hurried Age* (Harvard UP/Belknap), as well as editor of *The Annotated Emerson* (Harvard UP/Belknap) and *The MAD Files* (Library of America). He is a regular columnist for Tablet magazine, and his work for them can be found here: <https://www.tabletmag.com/contributors/david-mikics>

David AP Womble is an assistant professor of English at the University of Houston. In addition to articles in journals such as NOVEL, ELH, and Representations, he is the author of a new book, *The Making of Mass Behavior*, which will be out from Oxford UP next year. He specializes in the literature, science, and philosophy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with a particular interest in the historical roots of contemporary academic orthodoxies.

Carolina Fautsch writes essays, literary criticism, and philosophy on ecology and myth. She has a Ph.D from Johns Hopkins with a specialization in Romanticism.

Jane Satterfield's six poetry books include *The Badass Brontës* (Diode Editions Book Prize) and *Apocalypse Mix* (Autumn House Poetry Prize). *Luminous Crown*, winner of the 2025 Tenth Gate Prize, will appear on Word Works this year. She's received an N.E.A. poetry fellowship, the *Bellingham Review's* 49th Parallel Award, and the Ledbury Poetry Festival Prize, among other honors. Satterfield's work also appears in *Attached to the Living World: A New Ecopoetry Anthology* (Trinity U. Press), *Greening the Earth: A Global Poetry Anthology* (Vintage), and *Good Eats: 32 Writers on Eating Ethically* (NYU Press). She is a professor of writing at Loyola University Maryland.

Matthew Martello holds a PhD in English from the University of Virginia, where he is now Advising Fellow and Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences. His poems and academic articles have appeared in a variety of venues, including *The Fourth River* and *Kestrel*, *Narrative and Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly*. He is currently writing a book about the twentieth-century dramatic monologue.

Chris Childers is author of *The Penguin Book of Greek and Latin Lyric Verse*, a TLS and *Australian Book Review* best book of 2024, and a finalist for the London Hellenic Prize, and *Bitters*, winner of the 21st Anthony Hecht Prize, forthcoming from Waywiser Books in 2027. His work has appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. After a decade in Baltimore, having obtained an MFA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, he now lives in Los Angeles, where he teaches Latin at Harvard-Westlake School and occasionally posts on his Substack, *Callida Iunctura*.

Carla Galdo is a poet, writer, and editor. She has written for a variety of publications, including *Humanum*, *Word on Fire*, *Notre Dame Magazine Online*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *Well-Read Mom*, *Front Porch Republic*, and others. Her poetry has appeared in *First Things*, *Dappled Things*, *Verily*, *Modern Age*, *New Verse Review*, *Solum Journal*, and on Irish Southeast Radio. She is the recipient of the 2026 Frost Farm Prize for Metrical Poetry, and the 2024 St. Austin Review Prize for Poetry. She has taught classes in literature, theology, poetry, and book reviewing. Carla earned a Master's in Theological Studies from the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family and an MFA in Poetry from the University of St. Thomas-Houston. She and her husband live with their six children on a hobby farm in Virginia.

Peter Cortland teaches English at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut but his continuing interest is in Nineteenth Century European Novel, and those following: “Flaubert- Joyce” as Pound said. I'm interested in how and what reading does to the reader. What is the author doing to us? What are they doing to themselves? How do they do it?

Aaron Baker teaches at Loyola University Chicago, where he is a Professor of English and directs the Creative Writing Program. He has lived in Papua New Guinea, Mexico, and Germany, and currently divides his time between Tucson and Chicago. His most recent book, *American Experiment: A Poem*, was published this year by Texas Review Press.

Orrin N. C. Wang teaches English and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland, College Park. The recipient of the Keats Shelley Association of America's Distinguished Scholar Award for 2021, his most recent book publications include *Techno-Magism: Media, Mediation and the Cut of Romanticism*, part of Fordham UP's Lit Z series, and, co-edited with Emily Sun, the *Cambridge Companion to Romanticism and World Literature*. His most recent journal publications include “Excerpt from Heart Day: Reflections from a Heart Transplant Recipient” in *The Georgia Review* and “The Voice of No-Labor: Fantasy, Ideology, and Escapism in Keats's 'Ode to a Nightingale'” in the *Keats-Shelley Journal*.

Jane Forsyth Pallares is ABD in English Literature at the Catholic University of America. Her area of focus is 20th century poetry and poetics and her dissertation explores influences in the early work of Denise Levertov. Jane lives with her husband and daughter in southeastern PA on their family winery.

Seminar 6, The Six Most Beautiful Minutes in the History of Cinema

Natalia Pérez holds a Ph.D. in Latin American and Iberian Cultures from Princeton University. Her research revolves around early modern Iberian theater, with a special focus on religious theater from the late 15th century. Her teaching at USC covers early modern dramatic practices and musical performance, sound studies, and contemporary Latin American women's writing. She also teaching a cinema class on contemporary global horror cinema. is Associate Professor of Teaching at the University of Southern California.

Sonia Velázquez is Associate Professor with a joint appointment in the departments of Comparative Literature and Religion at Indiana University. Her research focuses on the importance of form to religious discourse and ideas, especially in medieval and early modern archives from the Spanish and French speaking worlds. She is author of *Promiscuous Grace: Imagining Beauty and Holiness with Saint Mary of Egypt* (Chicago, 2023), and of articles on the radical politics and poetics of Miguel de Cervantes's works beyond *Don Quixote*.

Martha Hollander is professor emerita of art history at Hofstra University. She has published on Baroque art and culture, digital humanities, digital pedagogy, and film. Her poetry has appeared in many periodicals including *Literary Matters*, *Mississippi Review*, *The Southwest Review*, *The New Republic*, and several anthologies.

Mary Maxwell is the author of six poetry collections, *An Imaginary Hellas*, *Emporia*, *Cultural Tourism*, *Nine Over Sixes*, *Oral Lake*, and *Word Suites*, as well as the audio chapbook, *Trail*.

She has been the winner of the “Discovery”/ The Nation Award, the recipient of a residential

fellowship from the Camargo Foundation, and a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome. As an independent scholar, she's published reviews and essays on the subject of poetry, poetic translation, as well as on the visual arts. These appeared in periodicals such as *Arion*, *Literary Imagination*, *Revel* and *PNReview*. She has completed a volume of nonfiction about the genesis and meaning of the movie, *The Night of the Hunter*, whose origins can be traced back to her childhood hometown of Clarksburg, West Virginia. An excerpt "Hardly Typical: Loughton, Brecht, and Isherwood in California," was recently published in *Raritan*.

Erin O' Luanaigh is a graduate of the University of Florida's MFA program, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Utah, where she is a Steffensen Cannon Fellow. Her debut poetry collection, *Avail*, was published this year by Paul Dry Books. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *The Yale Review*, *Film Quarterly*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Nimrod*, *AGNI*, *The Southern Review*, *32 Poems*, *The Hopkins Review*, and elsewhere.

Rebecca Rainof is an Associate Researcher at UC Berkeley in the Department of English. She writes on visual art and literature, the Victorian novel, and post-war Japanese-American experience.

Hope Rogers is an Affiliate Professor in the Humanities Department at Brenau University. Her teaching and research focus on gender, power, and popular culture, and she is working on a book about what recent Disney heroines can teach us about our psychological parts.

Seminar 7, Ralph Ellison, Robert Penn Warren, and Richard Wright: American Literature and Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century

John Burt is the author or editor of nine books, including *The Collected Poems of Robert Penn Warren*, *Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism*, and the novel *A Moment's Surrender*, which won the Prize Americana in 2024. He is Paul E. Prosswimmer Professor of American Literature at Brandeis University and a former president of the ALSCW.

Ernest Suarez is the author or editor of five books, including *Poetic Song Verse: Blues-Based Popular Music and Poetry* (co-authored with Mike Mattison) and David Bottoms's posthumous collection, *A Scrap in the Blessings Jar: New and Selected Poems*. He is the executive director of the ALSCW and a former president.

Renee Stack is an MA student at the Catholic University of America. She is currently working on her thesis focused on Mike Mattison's songwriting and the history of the Blues on both songwriters and literary tradition.

Matthew Zipf is a Ph.D. candidate in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His dissertation studies the work of Renata Adler at the intersection of law and literature. He has received the Ernst Freund Fellowship in Law and Philosophy, the Adam Zagajewski Prize in Public Writing, and the Littleton-Griswold Research Grant in Legal History.

Wes Rothman is the author of *SUBWOOFER* (New Issues Poetry and Prose, 2017), winner of the Editors' Choice Award, and a second manuscript of poems, *Wanted*. His writing has appeared in *The Hopkins Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Slowdown*, and *The Fight & The Fiddle*. A recipient of fellowships from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the Vermont Studio Center, he teaches at Howard University and NYU Washington, DC.

Evan Hulick, Ph.D., is a Visiting Instructor at Georgia Southern University, where he teaches 5 writing courses per semester full-time, 130 students. His doctoral dissertation focuses on J.R.R. Tolkien's literary influence on Ursula K. Le Guin, Margaret Atwood, and Junot Díaz. His current research includes a developing quantitative study on writing student motivations for using GenAI and several essays on their way to publication on Ernest Hemingway, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, and Robert Penn Warren. His broader areas include 20th century American fiction, transatlantic modernism, modern genre fiction, and composition studies.

Chris Suarez completed his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall of 2025 and taught at the College of Wooster as a visiting instructor from 2023 to 2025. His manuscript, *Resisting Cultural Amnesia: Blue Notes in Black Literature*, explores how four contemporary writers (Teju Cole, Natasha Trethewey, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Percival Everett) have been influenced by modernist predecessors. He has published four articles, including “Resisting Cultural Amnesia: Natasha Trethewey's *Beyond Katrina* and the Influence of Robert Penn Warren” (forthcoming in *Mississippi Quarterly*) and “Blue Notes in Suzan-Lori Parks's *Topdog/Underdog* and the Influence of Samuel Beckett” (forthcoming in *The New American Studies Journal*). He has presented his work at Yale University, The Catholic University of America, Vanderbilt University, University of Houston, Sorbonne University in Paris, the University of Turin, and the University of Göttingen.

Dennis Looney was director of the Office of Programs at the Modern Language Association from 2014-2021. From 1986 to 2013, he taught in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh, with secondary appointments in Classics and Philosophy. Publications include *Compromising the Classics: Romance Epic Narrative in the Italian Renaissance*; *Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy*; and *Ludovico Ariosto's Latin Poetry*.

Seminar 8, Poets as Critics, Critics as Poets I

David Bromwich (moderator) has taught courses on romanticism, modern poetry, Shakespeare, and the political thought of Burke and Lincoln. His books include *Hazlitt: the Mind of a Critic*, *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke*, and *Skeptical Music: Essays on Modern Poetry*. He is Sterling Professor of English at Yale University.

Lee Oser (moderator) is writing a new book, a critical-creative hybrid entitled *Last Account of J. Publius Dagley & Other Writings: The Poet-Critic after Eliot*, which is under consideration by University of Exeter Press. His band, The Riflebirds of Portland, will release their third and final album, *The Fire Came Down*, on Regional Records next spring. His books include *Christian Humanism in Shakespeare: A Study in Religion and Literature* and *Oregon Confetti*, named one of the best books of the year by *Commonweal* in 2017. He is Professor of English at College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

James Berger is Senior Lecturer, *Emeritus*, in American Studies and English at Yale University. (He taught his last class in Spring '25). He is the author, most recently, of *A Journal of the Plague Year: A Poet in the Pandemic* (forthcoming, Spuyten Duyvil Press). He has also published two academic monographs (*After the End: Representations of Post-Apocalypse*, U of Minnesota Press 1999; and *The Disarticulate: Language, Disability, and the Narratives of Modernity*, NYU Press 2014) and seven books of poetry, including one co-authored book for children, *Did You Kiss a Cat Today???*, with Geri

Lipschultz and Diane Stevenson (ArtVoices Books, 2025). His most recent book of poems for adults is *The Meaning of Poems: Selected Poems (as) Poetics* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2025). He is currently working on two books: *On Naive and Sentimental Poetics* and *The Book of Impasses: On Our Inability to Imagine a Future that is Just and Sustainable*.

Nicholas Bloechl is an adjunct professor at Boston College. He received his BA in English and Philosophy from Boston College in 2017, his MA in English from New York University in 2020, and his PhD in English from Boston University in 2026. His work has focused on the intersection of literature and visual culture in nineteenth-century America, and on the poetry and prose of Herman Melville. He writes short fiction in his free time.

Emma Eigen studies the theory and practice of interpretation, drawing on comparative literature, classical studies, psychoanalysis, and the history of ideas. Her dissertation, "Analysis, Synthesis, Krisis: Methods of Reading in Freud, Jung, and Homer," explores the work of interpretation in two mutually illuminating cases: Homeric poetics and the psychoanalysis of dreams. She earned her PhD from the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought (University of Chicago) in 2026. She has published in the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. She is currently a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows.

K. L. Evans is the author of *One Foot in the Finite: Melville's Realism Reclaimed* (Northwestern, 2018) and *Whale!* (Minnesota, 2003) and co-editor, with Branka Arsić, of *Melville's Philosophies* (Bloomsbury, 2017). A Fulbright scholar who conducted research on Melville's travels in the Pacific, she taught literature and philosophy at Yeshiva University, the University of Redlands, and the Telluride Association Summer Program at Cornell University.

Paul Franz is the editor of *Literary Imagination*. He teaches in the Department of English, Culture, and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada and has published scholarly articles and book chapters on topics including Rachel Cusk and D. H. Lawrence, T. S. Eliot and lyric theory, and A. F. Moritz and Jacques Ellul. His poetry, criticism, and short fiction appear in the *New York Review of Books*, *London Review of Books*, and *Heavy Traffic* (forthcoming), among other periodicals.

Maggie Greaves is associate professor of poetry and poetics at Skidmore College. Her research focuses on twentieth- and twenty-first-century poetry and poetics, world literature, and the history of science. She is the author of *Lyric Poetry and Space Exploration from Einstein to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2023) and essays on modern and contemporary poetry published in *Genre*, *Contemporary Literature*, *The Journal of Modern Literature*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Literature and Science*. She is also a poet whose work has appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere.

Veronica Hart is a graduate student at the Catholic University of America. She is pursuing a joint master's degree in English and Library Science. Veronica is the Resource and Services Coordinator at the Judge Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library at Catholic University. She provides legal reference assistance to law students, law review staffers and editors, and members of the public, as well as completing legal research requests for faculty members at the Law School.

Emily Leithauser published her first book, *The Borrowed World*, with Able Muse Press in 2016. Since then, her poetry has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry International*, and *Literary Matters*, and her prose has been published in *New York Magazine*, among other publications. She is an

Assistant Professor of English at Morehouse College.

Seminar 9, Teaching Literature in the Age of AI I

Taryn Okuma is Clinical Ordinary Professor of English at The Catholic University of America, where she also serves as the Director of the University Honors Program.

Foster Bella is a Law and Legal Studies major at the United States Military Academy, with a research focus on artificial intelligence's impact on the college writer and democratic societies, as well as its application to the law of armed conflict. At the Academy, she is a Stokes Writing Fellow, a snowboarding instructor, and a Peace Dialogue Leadership Initiative Fellow. She recently presented her research on AI and pedagogy at the National Communication Association.

Andrew Calis is a Palestinian-American poet, essayist, and teacher, and the editor-in-chief of *Dappled Things*. He has published in *The Atlantic*, the Academy of American Poets' *Poem-A-Day* series, *America*, and elsewhere, and his work has been nominated for a variety of awards, including the Pushcart Prize and the PEN/Voelkner Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Marissa Cina is an instructor in the Department of English and World Languages at West Point, where she teaches first-year composition and literature. She holds an M.A. in English from the University of Colorado Boulder and received her Ph.D. in English from Catholic University. Her dissertation, *From Reflex to Reflection*, examines liberal education and holistic wellness in the U.S. Army focusing especially on the value of reading and writing to both military success and a whole life.

Tim DeJong is a Senior Lecturer in the English Department at Baylor University. He researches 20th-century American Literature, with particular focuses in modernism, poetics, aesthetics, and genre theory. His first book, *Hope and Aesthetic Utility in Modernist Literature*, was published by Routledge in 2020. His next book, *Metaphysicians in the Dark: The Lyric Self in Modern American Poetry*, is forthcoming from LSU Press in 2027.

B. Spencer Lynch is a cadet at the United States Military Academy, where he studies Systems Engineering and will graduate in May 2027. His interest in writing instruction grew out of the West Point writing center, where he came to see clear writing as a survival skill for Army officers. In collaboration with Dr. Georgette Mitchell, he built a model that applies systems thinking to writing pedagogy, asking how AI can strengthen a writer's judgment instead of replacing it. His seminar paper draws on this work to move conversations about AI in the classroom beyond prohibition and permission. He conducts research across four USMA departments and MIT Lincoln Laboratory and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering.

James Michael McCollister teaches English at Dallas College and is a doctoral student in Literature at the University of Dallas. He holds a Master of Humanities from the University of Dallas with concentrations in politics, humanities, and English. His academic interests include intellectual history, philosophy, literature, rhetoric, art, and political thought.

Luke Mitchell is a Lecturer in the English Department at Baylor University. His main interests are British and Irish Modernism and Contemporary Literature as well as 20th Century and

Contemporary African American Literature. He is also the Assistant Director for the Undergraduate Division of the Center for Writing Excellence.

Seminar 10, Future Reading, Future Writing: What's changed and What's Ahead?

Sarah Harrison Smith is an Assistant Teaching Professor and Director of the MS in Global Innovation and Leadership through Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. As Editorial Director for Books and Kindle at Amazon, and as an editor at the *New York Times Book Review*, she wrote extensively about books, authors, and the publishing industry. Her guide, *The Fact Checker's Bible*, reflects her early career at the *New Yorker*.

Lin Atnip teaches in the Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults at the University of Chicago. She is the author of *From Tragedy to Apocalypse in American Literature* (Lexington, 2024). Her poetry appears in *New Ohio Review* and her short fiction is forthcoming in *St. Petersburg Review*. She is at work on her second (and third) novel.

Christa M. Forster, MFA, is a writer, performer, scholar, and educator at The Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas. An English teacher for three decades, she brings multimodal, inquiry-driven approaches to texts from Homer's epics to Bob Dylan's songbook. She is a recognized leader in AI integration across independent secondary schools.

Ernest Hilbert is the author of the poetry collections *Sixty Sonnets*, *All of You on the Good Earth*, *Caligulan*—selected as winner of the 2017 Poets' Prize—and *Last One Out*. His fifth book, *Storm Swimmer*, was selected by Rowan Ricardo Phillips as the winner of the 2022 Vassar Miller Prize and appeared in 2023. He has written about books for *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. He has been included in *Best American Poetry*, and his poems have appeared widely in such journals as *Yale Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *BOMB*, *Harvard Review*, *Arion*, *Sewanee Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Boston Review*, *The New Republic*, *American Scholar*, and the *London Review*. He is the recipient of a Meringoff Writing Award for Poetry from the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers (2023) and a James Merrill House Fellowship (2026). He received his doctorate in English Language and Literature from Oxford University in 2000 and lives with his wife and son in Philadelphia, where he works as a rare book dealer. Visit him at www.ernesthilbert.com

Fiona Spring is the founder of Lettre Sauvage where she designs letterpress poetry books and broadsides. Her work with authors including Anne Carson, Stephen Dunn, Ryan Wilson, and Elijah Blumov has been acquired by universities, museums, and private collections. She teaches at a classical high school and serves on the editorial team at the *Colosseum Journal of Arts & Letters*. She is working on her poetry MFA at the University of Saint Thomas, Houston.

Paul Ragonese is the Director of Community Life and an adjunct professor at Cairn University, located just northeast of Philadelphia. He has an MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, and an MS in Organizational Development from Cairn University. His poems have been published in the *Eastern Pennsylvania Poetry Review*, the *MSU Roadrunner Review* (where he received a Pushcart Prize nomination), *Talk to Me in Long Lines*, and has poems forthcoming in *The Colosseum* and *Blue Unicorn*. Paul and his wife, Kaitlyn, live in Jenkintown,

PA.

Shweta Rao Garg is on the faculty of the Center for Leadership Education, Johns Hopkins University. She publishes in the areas of Postcolonial Writing and Cultural Studies from India. She is the co-editor of *Female Body Image and Beauty Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature and Culture* (Temple University Press, 2024) and *The English Paradigm in India: Essays in Language, Literature and Culture* (Springer, 2017). She is also a visual artist and a creative writer and seeks to converge her critical and creative outputs into diverse forms and genres.

Diana B. Wolfe is a professor of English and a fiction writer at San Jacinto College—Central Campus, where she teaches composition and creative writing. She earned her M.F.A. in fiction from the University of Washington and is the recipient of the James W. Hall Prize for Fiction. She serves as Faculty Editor of *Accents: The Student Literary Magazine* of San Jacinto College, and her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in literary journals.

Seminar 11, Experimentals Forms in Poetry

Lauren Russell is the author of *A Window That Can Neither Open nor Close: Poems, Plots, Chance* (Milkweed Editions, 2024); *Descent* (Tarpaulin Sky Press, 2020), winner of the Poetry Society of America's 2021 Anna Rabinowitz Award for “venturesome, interdisciplinary work,” selected by Lillian-Yvonne Bertram; and *What's Hanging on the Hush* (Ahsahta Press, 2017). Russell has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, Cave Canem, and Kimbilio, and residencies from Ucross, Yaddo, and MacDowell, among others. Her work has appeared in the Academy of American Poets' *Poem-a-Day*, *The New York Times Magazine*, the anthology *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry*, and elsewhere. She is an Associate Professor in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University.

Lillian-Yvonne Bertram is an African American writer, poet, artist, and educator whose poetic practice includes the intersection of computation, AI, race, gender, among many other topics. They are the author of *Travesty Generator* (Noemi Press), a book of computational poetry longlisted for the 2020 National Book Award for Poetry. They are the recipients of a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship and are a 2024 Foundation for Contemporary Arts poetry grant recipient and 2024 Deutsch Foundation Ruby's Grant recipient. Their other poetry books include *How Narrow My Escapes* (DIAGRAM/New Michigan), *Personal Science* (Tupelo Press), *a slice from the cake made of air* (Red Hen Press), and *But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise* (Red Hen Press). Their most recent full-length poetry book, *Negative Money*, was published in 2023. Their chapbook, written with a Large Language Model, is called *A Black Story May Contain Sensitive Content* and won the 2023 Diagram/New Michigan chapbook contest. They are co-editor with Nick Montfort of the 2024 anthology *Output: An Anthology of Computer-Generated Text, 1953-2023*. They currently direct the MFA in creative writing program at the University of Maryland and are affiliate faculty in the Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland.

Jane Lewty's third book of poetry, *Vespers*, is forthcoming from the University of Iowa Press in Fall, 2026. Other collections include *Bravura Cool* (1913 Press) and *In One Form To Find Another* (CSU Poetry Center). Her edited essay collections are *Broadcasting Modernism* (University Press of Florida) and *Pornotopias* (Litteraria Pragensia). She has held faculty positions in the UK, the US, and The Netherlands.

Melissa Parrish is Assistant Professor of English and affiliated faculty in American Studies at Smith College, where she teaches postwar American Literature. She is currently completing a book manuscript, titled *Situation Normal: Emergency Poetics and the Rise of the American National Security State*, for NYU Press. Her writing on poetry and the politics of crisis has been published in *Contemporary Literature* and *Contemporary Women's Writing*, and is forthcoming in the edited volume *Plants Across Borders*.

Soham Patel is the author of four poetry collections (*The Daughter Industry: A Hauntological Confession, Alternative History, Speculative Autopoetics, In Three Acts with Seven Players; all one in the end—/water, ever really bear it; and to afar from afar*) all of which approach questions of gender, genre, political awakening, desire, and the diasporic condition. They serve as associate editor at *FENCE Magazine* and teach literary editing and publishing courses in the Creative Writing MFA at Virginia Tech with focus on small press culture, print journals, digital publishing, and electronic literature.

John Poch is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Grace College. He is the author of eight collections of poems, including the recent *The Future of Love* (Slant Books, 2026). His poems have been published in *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Five Points*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and many other magazines. His first book of criticism, *God's Poems: The Beauty of Poetry and the Christian Imagination*, was published by St. Augustine's Press in 2022. He was a Fulbright Core Scholar at the University of Barcelona in 2014. Since 2008, he has served as the series editor for the Vassar Miller Poetry Prize.

Anne Rong is a master's student in the English department at the University of Maryland, College Park. She studies representations of drone warfare in diasporic Asian poetry, and she organizes the “Folding Identity” AAPI zine-making workshop series with Asian American artists in the DMV. Some of her poems are forthcoming in BmoreArt's collection, *In Light and Verse*.

Nathan Spoon is an autistic poet with learning disabilities and author of *The Importance of Being Feeble-Minded* (Nine Mile Books, 2025). His poems and essays have appeared in the Academy of American Poets' *Poem-a-Day*, *American Poetry Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Poetry*, *Poetry Daily*, *The Southern Review*, and *swamp pink*, as well as anthologies including *The American Sonnet: An Anthology of Poems and Essays* (University of Iowa Press, 2023) and *I Witness: Documentary, Witness, and Research-based Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press, forthcoming 2027). He is curator of the poetry and art snail mail club *Behind Our Town*.

Seminar 12, Literary Baltimore: Poe & Company

Ryan Wilson is Editor Emeritus of Literary Matters and Associate Professor of Poetry at The University of St. Thomas-Houston. His most recent books are *Proteus Bound: Selected Translations* (Franciscan UP, 2021), *In Ghostlight: Poems* (LSU, 2024), and *Contemporary Catholic Poetry: An Anthology* (Paraclete, 2024).

Ned Balbo's books are *The Cylburn Touch-Me-Nots* (New Criterion Prize), *3 Nights of the Perseids* (Richard Wilbur Award), *Upcycling Paumanok*, *The Trials of Edgar Poe and Other Poems* (Donald Justice Prize and Poets' Prize), *Lives of the Sleepers* (Ernest Sandeen Prize), and *Galileo's Banquet* (Towson University Prize co-winner). He's been a fellow or scholar at Sewanee, Bread Loaf, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Vermont Studio Center, and he's received grants or fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (translation), Maryland Arts Council, and

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. Balbo has served as faculty for Iowa State's MFA program in creative writing and environment and, recently, for the Frost Farm and West Chester University poetry conferences. His work appears in *Contemporary Catholic Poetry* (Paraclete Press) and *Attached to the Living World: a New Ecopoetry Anthology* (Terra Firma Press). He is married to poet and essayist Jane Satterfield.

Jacob Bowers is a graduate student at the Catholic University of America. His interests include the intersection of religion and American literature.

Claudia Gary's new poetry collection, *Time and Other Solvents* (Sligo Creek Publishing, 2026), is a story of healing. Her previous books are *Humor Me* (David Robert Books, 2006), and several chapbooks including *Genetic Revisionism* (2019). Claudia is a 2026 semifinalist for *Nimrod Journal's* Pablo Neruda Prize, Pushcart Prize nominee, honorable mentionee in the Able Muse book contest, semifinalist for the Anthony Hecht Prize (Waywiser), three-time finalist in the Howard Nemerov Sonnet Contest, and advisory board member for *New Verse Review*, as well as a health and science writer, visual artist, and composer of tonal art songs and chamber music. She teaches Sonnets, Villanelles, Natural Meter, Persona Poems, Triolets, Poetry vs. Trauma, etc., usually via Zoom, through The Writer's Center (writer.org) and privately. Her 2022 article on setting poems to music is online at <https://straightlabyrinth.info/conference.html>. See also pw.org/content/claudia_gary and claudiagary.com.

Courtney Kim is the only eighth-generation Texan ever to have been raised in France. She graduated from Stanford University with honors in the humanities and is now pursuing an MFA at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. She and her husband have produced four young adults of strong personality and sound character. She is a managing editor for CatholicReads.com and an assistant editor for The Colosseum. Her blog, The Domestic Hermit, can be found on Substack or at www.courtneyguestkim.com. It aims to be a domestic rule based on the Rule of St. Benedict. She has published flash fiction in Windhover (UMHB), as well as a romantic comedy, How Sweet the Sound. She is currently working on a mystery-thriller, The Witting Sin.

Eric Palfreyman holds BA and MA degrees in English Literature from California State University, Los Angeles, and an MA degree in Philosophy from San Jose State University. In addition, he holds a Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. He has presented papers on: William James (at Yale University), The Bible as Literature (At the University of Houston), Ray Bradbury (UC Riverside); Theodore Dreiser (American Literary Association, in Boston); The Qur'an (San Jose State University and the Dallas Philosopher's Forum); and Nathaniel Hawthorne (at UCLA). He is currently working on a book on the philosophical and religious ideas in the writings of Ray Bradbury—for which he was able to interview Mr. Bradbury before his passing. Mr. Palfreyman credits a ninth grade reading of Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" with turning him on to the world of literature and ideas.

Jessica Rosario Sheaff is a former journalist turned fiction writer. She holds an MFA from the University of St. Thomas, Houston. Her writing has appeared in the *St. Austin Review*, Well-Read Mom, and Catholic Literary Arts. Her interests include magical realism and fantasy at the crossroads of faith, and the dialogue between literature and the visual and performing arts. She is a wife and homeschooling mother of four boys. Rereading classic literature with her children is pure joy.

Seminar 13, Romanticism's Aftermath II

K. L. Evans is the author of *One Foot in the Finite: Melville's Realism Reclaimed* (Northwestern, 2018) and *Whale!* (Minnesota, 2003) and co-editor, with Branka Arsić, of *Melville's Philosophies* (Bloomsbury, 2017). A Fulbright scholar who conducted research on Melville's travels in the Pacific, she taught literature and philosophy at Yeshiva University, the University of Redlands, and the Telluride Association Summer Program at Cornell University.

Ruby LaRocca is a recent graduate of Deep Springs College and a current Classics major at Williams College. In addition to maintaining a weekly Substack, *Stumblings*, her writing has been published in *The Free Press* and *The Times* of London, and is forthcoming in *The New Critic* and *Arena Magazine*. She presented her essay "Shakespeare in the Desert" at ALSCW 2025.

John Park is Assistant Professor of English at the New College of Florida. His teachings and research interests are 18th and 19th C. literature and philosophy. His book *Prosaic Times: Time as Subject in Wordsworth, Richardson, Flaubert, and Melville* was published in 2024 by Bloomsbury.

Laura Quinney teaches in the English Department at Brandeis. Her latest book is *Self-Haunting: Gnosticism, Romanticism, Kierkegaard, Beckett and Ashbery* (Anthem, 2026).

Mark Edmundson is University Professor at the University of Virginia. He is the author of more than a dozen books, most recently *The Age of Guilt: The Super-Ego in the Online World*.

Sharon "Cherie" Sabini graduated in May of 2026 from The Catholic University of America with a B.A. in English and minors in Peace and Justice Studies and Italian Studies. At Catholic U, she worked as a Writing Center tutor and led a Habitat for Humanity spring break service trip. She was a co-recipient of the H. Edward Cain award for Excellence in Literary Study, and the recipient of the Peggy Shaker Leadership award. She has continued working for a literacy based non-profit organization in D.C., Reach, Inc., serving elementary and high school students in the DCPS system. This academic year she will continue working in D.C. while applying to graduate programs for the coming year, with the hope to further her study of 19th and 20th century American literature.

Daniel Nutters teaches writing and literature at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. His first book, *The Humanist Critic: Lionel Trilling and Edward Said*, was just published by Anthem Press.

James Tussing is a political theorist and critic. He has studied at the University of Chicago, L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris), and the University of Notre Dame.

Rebecca Findlay teaches English at The Hotchkiss School. She is currently pursuing an MLitt at Middlebury in Medieval and Early Modern Literature. Research interests include lyric poetry, Greek and Latin drama and poetry, translation, and the development of genre, particularly allegory.

Andrew Majeske is an associate professor of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, and adjunct professor of law at McGeorge Law School (University of the Pacific). He received his doctorate from the University of California Davis, where he worked at the intersection of law, literature & political philosophy; his dissertation director was Margaret Ferguson. Andrew also holds a law degree from Loyola University of Chicago, where he studied under George

Anastaplo. Before pursuing his PhD, he worked as a practicing attorney for eleven years. In 2006 his book entitled *Equity in English Renaissance Literature* was published by Routledge Press, and in 2009 his edited collection *Justice, Women, and Power in English Renaissance Drama*, was published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. More recently he edited the special “Law, Literature and the Idea of Justice” issue of the *New American Studies Journal: A Forum*, (Issue 73, December 2022, open access), which opens with Amartya Sen's essay “Law and Ideas of Justice.”

Seminar 14, Song and Sense: “When Walls of the Cities Shake”

Mike Mattison has won two Grammy Awards and eight Blues Music Awards as a singer and songwriter with the Tedeschi Trucks Band and is the co-author, with Ernest Suarez, of *Poetic Song Verse: Blues-Based Popular Music and Poetry*. His most recent solo album is *Turn a Midnight Corner*. He is a graduate of Harvard University and serves on the Council of the ALSCW.

Ernest Suarez is the executive director of the ALSCW and loves to write with Mike Mattison. Their new book-in-progress is tentatively titled *Ralph Ellison, Robert Penn Warren, and Richard Wright: American Literature and Culture During the Cold War*.

Diana Senechal is the author of three books of nonfiction, one poetry collection, and numerous essays, stories, songs, and translations. Her most recent book, *More and Less than a Friend: The Songwriting Partnership of Tamás Cseh and Géza Bereményi in Hungary*, was published by Serving House Books in July 2026.

Hannibal Hamlin is Professor of English at The Ohio State University and Past President of the ALSCW. He is the author of books and articles on Shakespeare, the Bible and English literature, poetry and poetics, and literary allusion. He also is a musician, having performed with early music vocal ensembles in Toronto, New York, and Columbus, Ohio.

Abriana Jetté is an award-winning writer whose work has been supported by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, the Sewanee Writers Conference, the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, and has appeared in *Teachers & Writers Magazine*, *Best New Poets*, *PLUME*, *Tampa Review*, *Poetry New Zealand* and other places.

Wesley Lord is a poet and MFA student at the University of Maryland. He holds a BA in Art & Archaeology from Princeton University. Wesley's poetic and academic interests include poetry written by the children of immigrants in Western countries, queer of color writing, and the intersections of pop culture, politics, and literary theory.

Emily McBryan Fourie is pursuing a PhD in English at the Catholic University of America, where she earned her MA. Her dissertation explores patterns of influence and intertextual exchange among William Faulkner, Gabriel García Márquez, Toni Morrison, and Cormac McCarthy. She lives in Virginia with her husband and daughter.

Kevin O' Connor is an editor of *One on a Side: An Evening with Seamus Heaney and Robert Frost*, and his articles and poems have appeared in *Harvard Review Online*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Commonweal*, *James Joyce Quarterly*, *The Common*, and other publications. He is Faculty Emeritus at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

Lily Corwin serves as Advanced Instructor at Virginia Tech, where she teaches courses in writing and literature. Her research interests include Jewish American Literature, American folk music, and fantasy literature. Recent publications include those in *Literary Matters*, *Magazine Americana*, and *Response*.

Seminar 15, Curation, Conversation, Community: Literature Beyond the Book

Matthew Buckley Smith hosts the *SLEERICKETS* poetry podcast and serves as Prose Editor of *Tar River Poetry*. His most recent poetry collection is *The Soft Black Stars*, winner of the Rattle Chapbook Prize.

Elijah Perseus Blumov is host of the *Versecraft* podcast and substack, and Translations Editor at *Literary Matters*. He is the author of *The Necklace of Harmonia* (Lettre Sauvage, 2026) and *Against Oblivion* (Measure Press, 2026).

Emily Grace is the Editor in Chief of *Literary Matters* and a Ph.D. Candidate at the Catholic University of America. Her research focuses on the intersections between modernist literature and music in the work of James Joyce, Djuna Barnes, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison.

David Starkey served as Santa Barbara's 2009-2011 Poet Laureate. Emeritus Professor and the Founding Director of the Creative Writing Program at Santa Barbara City College, he is Publisher and Co-editor, with Chrissy Yost, of Gunpowder Press and *Anacapa Review*. More than 500 of his poems have appeared in literary journals such as *American Scholar*, *Georgia Review*, *Prairie Schooner* and *Southern Review*. His most recent books of poetry are *You, Caravaggio*; *The Moon Shall Not Give Her Light*; and *Tell Me Why*. His textbook, *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*, is in its fourth edition, and is annually one of the best-selling introductions to creative writing in North America.

CPT Drew Visscher is an Instructor of English Composition and Literature at the United States Military Academy and a sixteen-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army. His research examines culture and identity-making among junior officers and enlisted soldiers in Regency Britain, with particular attention to how they negotiated professional identity within broader literary discourses. His current project examines the early military periodical press as a site where that culture was both created and captured.

Seminar 16, Shakespeare and the Poem Unlimited

David Yezzi's latest books are *More Things in Heaven: New and Selected Poems* (Measure Press) and *Late Romance: Anthony Hecht—A Poet's Life* (St. Martin's Press). A 2025 Guggenheim Fellow in poetry, he is a member of the acting company at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore, where recent roles include Friar Laurence and Hamlet's Ghost. He is a professor in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins and the president of the ALSCW.

Scott F. Crider is Professor of English at the University of Dallas. A Shakespearean and a rhetorician, his most recent book, co-authored with Trang M. Crider, is *Love Among the Castelli Romani: A Midlife Crisis for Two* (Ali Ribelli, 2024). He is now completing *The Art of Poetry in Shakespeare's Sonnets*.

Rebecca Findlay teaches English at The Hotchkiss School. She holds an MA in English Literature from Middlebury College, an MFA in Poetry from the Bennington Writing Seminars. She is currently pursuing an MLitt at Middlebury College in Medieval and Early Modern English Literature. Research interests include lyric poetry, translation, Classical drama and poetry, and the development of genre, particularly allegory.

Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody is a literary translator, most recently of *The Idea of Perfection: The Poetry and Prose of Paul Valéry*. His essays have appeared in *MLN*, *Modern Philology*, *Essays in Criticism*, *Literary Imagination*, and other journals. He is currently completing a PhD in Comparative Literature at Indiana University. His latest book is *A Dire Shortage of Usable Meaning: Two Poems*.

Alexis Sears is the author of *Out of Order*, winner of the 2021 Donald Justice Poetry Prize and the Poetry by the Sea Book Award (2022), and a nominee for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Her work has appeared widely, including in *The Best American Poetry*. A recipient of fellowships from the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the *Kenyon Review*, she earned her MFA in poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her BA in Writing Seminars from Johns Hopkins University. She lives in Southern California.

Seminar 17, “Whose Words These Are I Think I Know”

Robert Bernard Hass is professor of English at Pennsylvania Western University. He is the author of *Going by Contraries: Robert Frost's Conflict with Science* (Univ. of Virginia Press), which was named a *Choice* “Outstanding Academic Title” in 2003, and co-editor with Donald G. Sheehy, Mark Richardson, and Henry Atmore of the multi-volume *Letters of Robert Frost* (Harvard UP). He is also the author of the poetry collection *Counting Thunder* (Wordtech, 2008) and his poems have appeared in many journals, including *Agni*, *Poetry*, *Sewanee Review*, *Literary Matters*, and *Times Literary Supplement*.

Jonathan Barron is professor of English at the University of Maine. He is the author of *How Robert Frost Made Realism Matter* (Missouri UP, 2015). For twenty years, he was the editor of *The Robert Frost Review*. He has published numerous articles on Frost and is currently working on a new book about Robert Frost's unusual poetry. Additionally, he has published widely on Jewish American literature.

Natalie Gerber is professor of English at SUNY Fredonia who brings insights from structural and historical linguistics to bear on poets' and songwriters' prosodic innovations and verbal play. Recent publications include work on Robert Frost and on Stephen Sondheim. She has served on the editorial boards for scholarly poetry societies, including the Robert Frost Society, and assisted both well-known poets and poetry organizations (Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festivals, Poetry by the Sea). Her definition of poetry is doing something new with the language in full awareness of human contexts.

Matthew Spring received his Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Dallas in 2015, where he now works as the Executive Director of Student Success and Public Speaking. His research interests include 19th and 20th Century American Literature, especially the prose of Nathaniel Hawthorne and the poetry of Robert Frost.

Elijah Walters is a senior instructor of English at the United States Military Academy at West

Point, where he teaches first-year cadets (“Plebes”) writing and literature. He holds an M.A. in English Literature from the Catholic University of America, and he recently published an article in *Brontë Studies* on Anne Brontë’s novel *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

Seminar 18, Poetry and Philosophy II

Elijah Perseus Blumov is host of the *Versecraft* podcast and substack, and Translations Editor at *Literary Matters*. He has been published in dozens of journals, and is the author of *The Necklace of Harmonia* (Lettre Sauvage, 2026) and *Against Oblivion* (Measure Press, 2026).

Andrew Kuiper lives in southern Michigan with his wife and three children. He enjoys writing and reading about Platonism, Romanticism, Kabbalah, and Marxism. He is a contributing editor at *Romanticon* and has also been published in *The Lamp*, *Church Life Journal*, *Jesus the Imagination* and *The Institute for Christian Socialism*. He has a chapter on theological exegesis in the volume *A Heart of Flesh: William Desmond and the Bible*. You can read his essays on substack under the name *Naucratic Expeditions*.

Forester McClatchey is a poet, critic, and painter from Atlanta, GA. He is a graduate of MFA@FLA, and his work has appeared in *32 Poems*, *Hopkins Review*, *Subtropics*, *The London Magazine*, and *Harvard Review*, among others. He is the author of *Killing Orpheus* (Carnegie Mellon, 2026). He teaches at Atlanta Classical Academy.

Gregorio Montejo received a PhD in Historical Theology from Marquette University. He subsequently taught at several schools, including the University of St Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. At Boston College he taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in Theology, among them seminars on Christology, Trinitarian Theology, Medieval Biblical Hermeneutics, and Aquinas and Neoplatonism. He is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the North American Patristics Society. He has recently translated Miguel Ayuso’s *La Hispanidad como problema: historia, cultura y política* for Arouca Press and contributed an essay on the influence of Novalis and Neoplatonism on George MacDonald for a forthcoming critical edition of *Phantastes*. He currently runs the *Past Masters* substack.

Seminar 19, American Literary Fragments and Other Short Form

Robert S. Levine is Distinguished University Professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is the General Editor of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. His new books include an edition of Hawthorne’s fragments, forthcoming with the Library of America, and *After Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Quest for Interracial Democracy*, forthcoming with W. W. Norton.

Emily Gowen is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. She has held research fellowships at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the Library Company of Philadelphia, The Center for Mark Twain Studies, and The American Antiquarian Society, all in support of her current book, *Fictions in Print: Transatlantic Reprinting and The Popular Dissemination of the Novel in the 19th Century United States*, which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. Her writing has appeared in *ELH*, *American Literature*, *J19*, and several other journals.

Aleksandra Hernandez is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Miami. Her research engages questions in the areas of animal ethics, the epistemology of emotions, American pragmatism, and feminist philosophy. Her articles have appeared in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Arizona Quarterly*, and *Hypatia*. She's currently working on a book project titled *Animal Values: A Pragmatist Ethic for Our Relationship with Other Animals*.

Gerard Holmes is a Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Maryland, College Park, and serves as the Treasurer of the Emily Dickinson International Society. He has guest-edited themed issues of *The Emily Dickinson Journal (EDJ)*, *ESQ*, and *Women's Studies*, and published essays in *EDJ*, the *Oxford Handbook to Emily Dickinson*, *Contemporaries / Post-45*, and *Reception*.

Thomas W. Howard is an Assistant Professor of American Culture and Literature at Bilkent University (Ankara, Türkiye). He is currently at work on a monograph on the “aphoristic science” of the American Transcendentalists and Pragmatists. He is also co-editing *Small Forms in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* (under contract with Edinburgh UP). He serves as President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society and Associate Editor of *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies*. He was awarded the 2025 Ralph Cohen Prize from *New Literary History*.

Dan Jaques is a PhD student in Philosophy at the University of Miami. His primary areas of interest are metaphysics and aesthetics. He also holds a longstanding interest in the philosophy of color. His upcoming dissertation project will examine the nature of concepts and abstract thought, drawing from both Kantian and pragmatist frameworks. Outside of philosophy, he has a passion for botany and poetry.

Samuel Otter is Distinguished Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Melville's Anatomies* and of *Philadelphia Stories: America's Literature of Race and Freedom*, and he co-edited the volumes *Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville: Essays in Relation* (with Robert S. Levine) and *Melville and Aesthetics* (with Geoffrey Sanborn). He is a co-creator (along with Robert K. Wallace) of the Digital Humanities website *Melville's Print Collection Online*. He is currently finishing a book titled *Melville's Forms*.

Lisa Siraganian is J. R. Herbert Boone Chair in Humanities and Professor of Comparative Thought and Literature at Johns Hopkins University. She is the editor of Volume D of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 1914-1945*. Her recent books include *Modernism and the Meaning of Corporate Persons* (Oxford, 2020) and *The Problem of Personhood: Giving Rights to Trees, Corporations, and Robots* (Verso, 2026).

Claudia Stokes is Professor of English at Trinity University. Her most recent books are *The Altar at Home: Sentimental Literature and Nineteenth-Century American Religion* (U Penn P, 2014) and *Old Style: Unoriginality and Its Uses in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature* (U Penn P, 2021). With Elizabeth Duquette, she co-edited the Penguin Classics edition of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps's bestselling novel *The Gates Ajar* (1868). She is currently completing a two-volume scholarly edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe's religious writings for the *Collected Works of Harriet Beecher Stowe* (Oxford University Press).

Seminar 20, Poets as Critics, Critics as Poets II

David Bromwich (moderator) has taught courses on romanticism, modern poetry, Shakespeare, and the political thought of Burke and Lincoln. His books include *Hazlitt: the Mind of a Critic*, *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke*, and *Skeptical Music: Essays on Modern Poetry*. He is Sterling Professor of English at Yale University.

Lee Oser (moderator) is writing a new book, a critical-creative hybrid entitled *Last Account of J. Publius Dagley & Other Writings: The Poet-Critic after Eliot*, which is under consideration by University of Exeter Press. His band, The Riflebirds of Portland, will release their third and final album, *The Fire Came Down*, on Regional Records next spring. His books include *Christian Humanism in Shakespeare: A Study in Religion and Literature* and *Oregon Confetti*, named one of the best books of the year by *Commonweal* in 2017. He is Professor of English at College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Steven Monte is a poet, verse translator, and English professor, who teaches at CUNY and lives in New York City. His translations range from Petrarch and Ariosto to Victor Hugo and Jules Laforgue. His current scholarship focuses on Renaissance poetry, including his book *The Secret Architecture of Shakespeare's Sonnets*. His first book of poetry, *Counterclockwise*, is forthcoming in 2026 with *Able Muse Press*. He is an avid runner and hiker, and he believes that he has discovered where William Wordsworth took his wrong turn in the Alps.

Jeffrey Peters, PhD, is an educator and researcher who specializes in literacy and reading disabilities. He completed his dissertation at The Catholic University of America on Keats's Apollonian salvation.

Kevin Rulo is Associate Professor in the Department of English at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *Satiric Modernism* (Clemson UP, 2021; 2025, paperback). His peer-reviewed articles have been published in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, the *Review of English Studies*, *Christianity and Literature*, and *AI & Society*, among other venues. He currently serves as co-editor of the *T.S. Eliot Studies Annual* and sits on the Board of the International T.S. Eliot Society. At present, he is at work on a volume of Wyndham Lewis's short and unfinished fiction for the Oxford Collected Works of Wyndham Lewis, which will include the first publication of Lewis's abandoned, early '20s long novel "Joint."

Mark Scroggins has written or edited numerous books of poetry and prose, including the widely reviewed *The Poem of a Life: A Biography of Louis Zukofsky*. His most recent books include the poetry collection *Zion Offramp 51-100 (asemic dub)*, *The Uncollected Louis Zukofsky: Poetry, Drama, Prose* (co-edited with Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas), and *Excursus: Selected Prose of John Peck*. He taught for many years at Florida Atlantic University, and now lives in Montclair (New Jersey) and Manhattan.

Daniel Tobin has published more than twenty books, including *The Mansions*, winner of the National Indie Excellence Award in Poetry and *Blood Labors*, named one of the Best Poetry Books of the Year by the *New York Times*. Other awards include the Julia Ward Howe Prize, the Robert Penn Warren Award, the Robert Frost Fellowship, the Massachusetts Book Award, and fellowships from the NEA and Guggenheim Foundation. His newest books are the chapbook, *From the Distances of Sleep*, *The Odeon: Essays on Poetry* (finalist for The Pegasus Award in Poetry Criticism) and *Dusk, Empire: New and Selected Poems 1987-2024*.

Meg Tyler teaches at Boston University.

Rosanna Warren is Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor, *Emerita*, in the Committee on Social Thought, the University of Chicago. Her memoir, *The Fair Fields*, will be published by W. W. Norton in December 2026.

Seminar 21, Teaching Literature in the Age of AI II

Taryn Okuma is Clinical Ordinary Professor of English at The Catholic University of America, where she also serves as the Director of the University Honors Program.

Michael (M.I) Devine is Professor of English and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary and Area Studies at SUNY Plattsburgh. Author of *Warhol's Mother's Pantry*, an award-winning mixtape of literary history, memoir, and poetry, he's cofounder of the avant-pop collective Famous Letter Writer, currently releasing *DADAMAMA*. His work on teaching explores how experiential pedagogies can distribute expertise across the classroom.

E. Thomas Finan's latest book is *Reading Reality: Nineteenth-Century American Experiments in the Real* (University of Virginia Press, 2021). His work has appeared in a variety of publications, including *The Atlantic*, *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. He chairs the Division of Humanities at Boston University's College of General Studies.

Sarah Harsh is a writer and educator living outside Chicago. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Emory University, a M.A. in Irish Studies from New York University, and a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois. She has published scholarship in *Feminist Review*, *New Hibernia Review*, and *Reading Ireland*; poetry in *Tiny Wren Lit*; and satire on *Reductress*. She currently teaches at National Louis University and Harper College.

Sr. Maria Frassati Jakupcak is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. She is also an Assistant Professor of English and Core Fellow at the University of St. Thomas, Houston. She received her Ph.D at CUA and is certified to teach all levels of students, though she began her career teaching Elementary school. Her primary scholarly work is on Shakespeare, though she has also published on Tolkien, Belloc, and Rumer Godden. Currently, she is working on a project that puts Shakespeare into conversation with Thomas Aquinas, as well as a book chapter about Fulton Sheen's use of Shakespeare. Her devotional writing regularly appears in *Magnificat*.

David Moretti is a teacher, student, and writer. He teaches all 12th-grade students at Central Catholic High School in Modesto, CA. David is also a Teaching Fellow in the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education program. He hopes to guide students towards seeing the value in putting their identity on paper or on a Google Doc.

Rebecca Vaccaro is a teacher and current chair of the English Department at Bishop Ireton High School. She teaches an ENG 12 survey of British Literature and dual enrollment courses in college composition and superhero literature.

Seminar 22, The Golden Mean: How Mid-Length Poems Sustain Lyric or Narrative Momentum

Sunil Iyengar is a poet, reviewer, and occasional essayist. He is editor of *The Colosseum Book of Contemporary Narrative Verse* and the author of a poetry chapbook, *A Call from the Shallows*. He also curates a poetry reading series for the D.C. Arts Center. Samples of his published writings are available at www.suniliyengar.com.

Brian Brodeur is the author of four books of poetry, mostly recently *Some Problems with Autobiography* (2023), which won The New Criterion Prize. Recent poems and literary criticism appear in *The Hudson Review*, *The Hopkins Review*, and *Pushcart Prize XLIX* (2025). He teaches American literature and creative writing at Indiana University East.

Mary R. Finnegan is Deputy Editor at Wiseblood Books, Social Media Editor at *Dappled Things*, and Editor-in-Chief at *Talk to Me in Long Lines*. Her work has appeared in *The AJN*, *New Verse Review*, and elsewhere. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of St. Thomas, Houston.

Paul Franz is the editor of *Literary Imagination*. He teaches in the Department of English, Culture, and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada and has published scholarly articles and book chapters on topics including Rachel Cusk and D.H. Lawrence, T. S. Eliot and lyric theory, and A. F. Moritz and Jacques Ellul. His poetry, criticism, and short fiction appear in the *New York Review of Books*, *London Review of Books*, and *Heavy Traffic* (forthcoming), among other periodicals.

Rachel Hadas's new book, *My Cloak is Poetry: A Prosimetrum on Myth*, is due out early in 2027. Poet, essayist, translator, and editor, Rachel taught for many years at Rutgers University-Newark.

Tamarah Rockwood is a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham, where her dissertation traces the history of the exclamation mark in poetry and its purpose in Modernist poetry. She holds a degree in Creative Writing & Literature from Harvard University. She is the founder and publisher of Bainbridge Island Press, named top in poetry among *Writers Digest's* 101 Best Websites for Writers in 2026, and she hosts the POETICS Podcast. She is Chair of Ars Poetica WA, a fourteen-year community ekphrastic project pairing poets with visual artists, and is Producer of Poetry on the Salish Sea at Centrum in Port Townsend. She lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington.

John Talbot teaches Greek, Latin, and English literature at Brigham Young University. He is the author of two books of poetry; his latest scholarly book, on the English poet C. S. Sisson, is co-edited with Victoria Moul.

Michael Theune's scholarly work focuses on contemporary U.S. poetry and poetics and on British Romanticism, especially the work of John Keats. He has published three books, editing *Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns* (2007), co-authoring *We Need to Talk: A New Method for Evaluating Poetry* (2018), and co-editing *Keats's Negative Capability: New Origins and Afterlives* (2019). Theune co-curated *Voltage Poetry* (voltagepoetry.com), a website dedicated to discussion of some of poetry's most significant turns, and he was a founder of, editor for, and contributor to the Keats Letters Project (keatslettersproject.com). Theune is Robert Harrington Endowed Professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Seminar 23, Irish Modernism

Gregory Baker is associate professor, chair of the English department and director of Irish Studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He specializes in modern Irish and British literature, with a focus on classical reception, translation studies and comparative modernism. He is the author of the book, *Classics and Celtic Literary Modernism: Yeats, Joyce, MacDiarmid and Jones*.

Harrison Glaze is a PhD student in the English department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He works on twentieth-century poetry and poetics and transatlantic modernism and has recently published work in *The T. S. Eliot Studies Annual*.

Brian Richardson is a Professor in the English Department of the University of Maryland and former president of the Joseph Conrad Society of America. He has published seven books, including *Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction* (2006); *A Poetics of Plot for the Twenty-first Century: Theorizing Unruly Narratives* (2019); and *The Reader in Modernist Fiction* (2024). He is the editor or co-editor of numerous volumes, including *Narrative Beginnings: Theories and Practices* (2009). He has written numerous articles on twentieth century authors, many of them on Conrad, Joyce, Woolf, and Beckett. He is currently working on a book that centers on Virginia Woolf and the making of modernist fiction.

Deborah Saitta-Ringger is a Professor of English and Humanities at Quincy College. Her research and teaching interests focus on women writers as well as war literature. Previous ALSCW conference presentations include: “Preferring Not To: Liberty as Refusal in Melville, Hawthorne, and Thoreau” (2023); “Periodization as Metaphor: Transcending Time in Toni Morrison's Fiction” (2022); and “Style and Silence: Writing the Unspeakable in War Literature” (2019). Deborah's recent and upcoming publications on Toni Morrison have served as a reminder of the enduring literary influence of Irish Modernists like James Joyce.

Matthew Ryan is a PhD Candidate at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he studies modern Irish fiction, and the history and theory of the novel. He is currently working on a dissertation which shows the importance of social and geographical space as an overlooked formal component of the *Bildungsroman* from 1800 to the present.

Yifan Zhang is Assistant Professor of English at Concordia University Wisconsin. Her current research examines the georgic mode in Seamus Heaney's poetry. She has also published translations of the Taiwanese poet Yu Kwang-Chung.

Seminar 24, Literary Maximalism Now

Justin Mitchell is a scholar of twentieth-century literature, with special interests in the novel and post-World War II US literary culture. He is currently completing a manuscript that explores how the political novel in the US evolved in response to the social movements of the 1960s. His essays and reviews have appeared in *Post45*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, *American Literary History*, and *African American Review*. He is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan.

Ernest Suarez is the executive director of the ALSCW. Working with Justin Mitchell is one of the great pleasures of his academic life. This is the third seminar they have moderated together.

Graham Glovka is a student at Brandeis University studying English and American Studies. His research focuses on Twentieth Century America particularly through literature and music. He is

currently working on his thesis, "An Incandescent Anomaly: Thomas Pynchon the Romantic" which explores the influence Romanticism has on Pynchon's work.

Anjalee Nadarajan is a PhD candidate in English literature at York University, Toronto. Her dissertation places the works of Thomas Pynchon and Kim Stanley Robinson in conversation with each other: what are the stakes in common for these two stylistically different American authors, and why are these stakes relevant today? Anjalee also writes fiction and poetry and works as a musician in the Greater Toronto Area.

Kevin Farrell is Professor of English at Radford University. His research focuses on Irish literature, modernism, and popular music. He is the author of *Pandemic Playlist: An Exploration of COVID-inspired Popular Music*, and his work has appeared in the *James Joyce Quarterly*, *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *The Journal of Historical Fictions*, and *New Hibernia Review*.

Katarzyna Bartoszyńska is an Associate Professor in the Department of Literatures in English and the Program of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Ithaca College. She is the author of *Estranging the Novel: Poland, Ireland, and Theories of World Literature and Reading Together*.

John Pistelli is the author of the novel *Major Arcana* (2025). He is adjunct professor of Liberal Arts at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and lives in Pittsburgh, PA.

Lee Konstantinou is Professor of English at the University of Maryland. He wrote the novel *Pop Apocalypse*, the literary history *Cool Characters: Irony and American Fiction*, and the single-novel study *The Last Samurai Reread*. With Samuel Cohen, he edited *The Legacy of David Foster Wallace* and with Georgiana Banita he edited *Artful Breakdowns: The Comics of Art Spiegelman*. He's currently writing a history of comics called *CreatorOwned Comics* as well as a novel.

Jesse McCarthy is John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Blue Period: Black Writing in the Early Cold War*, the essay collection *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?* and a novel, *The Fugitivities*.

Johns Hopkins University Welcomes the ALSCW!

Dear Colleague,

I'm delighted that you will join us at Johns Hopkins for this year's ALSCW conference. I am attaching a campus map for your convenience. Also, I wanted to let you know that there are a number of decent restaurants and useful services in Charles Village, on one block from campus on St. Paul Street.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Best,

David Yezzi
Professor, JHU
ALSCW President

Emergency Contact Number

University Public Safety Switchboard: 667-208-1200

Restaurants in Charles Village

Bird in Hand Coffee & Books

11 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218

Providing Baltimore's Charles Village neighborhood with the perfect blend of coffee, books, and community since 2016. All food and drinks are sourced locally.

Hours: Open Every Day 8am-8pm, Kitchen closes at 6PM.

Dear Charles, A Village Tavern

3215 North Charles St. 21218 (Entrance on 33rd St.)

Located inside The Study hotel near Johns Hopkins University, serving elevated Mid-Atlantic comfort food like roasted chicken, burgers, and weekend brunch.

Hours: Breakfast (7:00 AM – 11:00 AM), Lunch (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM), Dinner (3:30 PM – 10:00 PM), Weekend Brunch (7:00 AM – 3:00 PM). Price Range: \$20–\$40 per person.

Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen

10 Art Museum Dr, Baltimore, MD 21218 (Inside the Baltimore Museum of Art)

Acclaimed farm-to-table Chesapeake regional cuisine by Chef John Shields, featuring a dining room and patio overlooking the museum's sculpture garden.

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM), Sunday (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

PM, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM), Closed Monday–Tuesday. Price Range: \$20–\$60 per person.

Kajiken Baltimore

7 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218

Popular Japanese specialty eatery focusing on abura soba (brothless/soupless ramen).

Hours: Monday–Sunday (12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM; Friday–Saturday open until 9:30 PM). Price Range: \$20–\$30.

Lao Sze Chuan

3224 St Paul St.

Well-known regional spot for authentic, bold Sichuan dishes like mapo tofu and dry chili chicken right in the neighborhood. Price Range: \$20–\$30.